

Applicants: Suemasu et al.
Serial No.: 10/820,272
Filing Date: April 8, 2004
Preliminary Amendment
Page 5 of 5

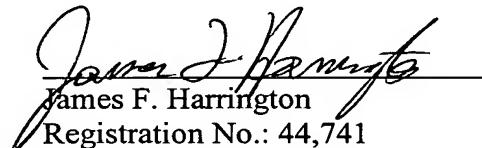
REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment supplements the Preliminary Amendment filed on April 8, 2004 in which claims 6 and 7 were cancelled.

The above-referenced application is a divisional application claiming priority to U.S. Patent Application No. 10/247,264. During prosecution of the parent application, a Restriction Requirement was issued. Claims 1-5, drawn to a metal filling method, were withdrawn in response to the Restriction Requirement. Accordingly, Claims 1-5 were never substantively examined in the parent application. No Office Action has yet been received from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office regarding this divisional application. Accordingly, the Amendments made herein are being made in an effort to broaden the scope of the claims as originally filed, and are not made for reasons of patentability.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in all respects complete and in condition for examination and favorable consideration, which actions are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any questions concerning any aspect of this application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,


James F. Harrington
Registration No.: 44,741
Attorney for Applicants

HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP
6900 Jericho Turnpike
Syosset, New York 11791
(516) 822-3550

JFH/me

189477_1